# KANSAS

DIVISION OF HEALTH POLICY AND FINANCE

ROBERT M. DAY, DIRECTOR

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

### **Testimony on:**

Kansas Health Policy Authority Update

### presented to:

Senate Committee on Health Care Strategies

### by:

Marcia J. Nielsen, PhD, MPH Chair, Kansas Health Policy Authority Board

**January 31, 2006** 

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#### **Kansas Division of Health Policy and Finance** Robert M. Day, Director

## Senate Committee on Health Care Strategies January 31, 2006

#### **Kansas Health Policy Authority Update**

Thank you Chairperson Wagle, Vice Chair Brungardt, and the entire Committee for inviting me here this afternoon. I have been asked to update you on the progress of the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board.

**Authorizing Legislation.** As you know, the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board (HPAB) was created last year with the passage of Senate Bill 272. The legislation resulted in one of the most significant reorganizations in the history of Kansas State government – in essence folding together Medicaid, the State Employees Health Plan, S-CHIP and several other health programs into one agency. The goals as outlined by the bill are clear. The Health Policy Authority will enhance the health of Kansans through: (1) improved efficiency and cost-effectiveness of health care purchasing, (2) improved use of data to drive health policy decisions; (3) increased focus on wellness and public health.

**Health Policy Authority Board Members.** The board is comprised of talented and dedicated members who live and work in Kansas. Collectively, we have several decades of experience in administering, purchasing, and providing health care services and promoting public health. Attached to my testimony you will find more detailed bios for recently confirmed members of the board.

**Un-official Meetings.** Prior to our Senate confirmation in November, the board was granted permission from our Legislative Oversight Committee to meet informally. We thus began meeting monthly in September 2005 and focused on understanding the various health programs that will fall under the jurisdiction of the board. During these informal public meetings, we met with directors from the programs and spent time focusing on board process issues.

Official Meetings. To date, the board has met twice in an official capacity, given a delay in our confirmation process. The delay was largely due to a lengthy KBI background check for voting members of the board. Although the legislation required that board members be appointed on or before August 1, 2005, we were unable to have our Senate confirmation hearing until the end of November. Accordingly, our first official meeting occurred in December, and we met again in January. During these most recent meetings, we continued to learn about Kansas health programs, and heard from two nationally known speakers on the issues of chronic disease and health disparities. Additional subcommittees have also met, for example, to discuss the planning of our board retreat. As the legislation stipulates, we will continue to meet monthly for the first year. Thereafter, the board is required to meet quarterly, but may meet more often as necessary.

**Strategic Planning Retreat.** In February, the board will participate in a planning retreat. We will determine what the long term mission and strategic goals of the Health Policy Authority Board will be, as well as which areas of health policy the board will focus on in the short term. We have an expert line-up to promote our learning: our facilitators are from Wichita State University; and we have distinguished guest lecturers from the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Commonwealth Fund. These researchers will identify best practices in state, national, and private sector health policy trends. Our retreat will end with a plan for our next steps – both short term and long term. As required by law, we will provide to the legislature on March 1, 2006 our recommendations regarding the transfer of health programs from the Division of Health Policy and Finance to the Health Policy Authority.

I look forward to sharing more information about the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board at the completion of our planning retreat. Thank you for your attention; I would be happy to stand for questions.

#### **Kansas Health Policy Authority Board Members**



Garen Cox, JD

President, Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel for Medicalodges, Inc.

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Garen Cox is the President, Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel for Medicalodges, Inc. home multi-facility operation in America with 41 locations in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Medicalodges employs in excess of 2400 employees and is the only 100% employee-owned nursing home multi-facility operation in America. Cox joined Medicalodges after graduating law school and has served as its general counsel handling all of the legal matters associated with a large health care operation.

Since March 14, 2003, Cox has served the company as its President, CEO, and General Counsel. He was recently elected to a third term as President, CEO, and General Counsel. Cox has also served as Medicalodges' Executive Vice-President and General Counsel (1998 to 2003). From 1976 to 1998, Cox was employed by Medicalodges serving as Vice President and General Counsel.

In 1976 Cox began work in private law practice representing individuals in all walks of life and represented indigent defendants in criminal matters until 1998.

Garen Cox graduated from Washburn School of Law in 1976. He completed his undergraduate degree at Kansas University with a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree in 1973.

Cox graduated from Mound City High School (1969) as Co-Valedictorian with numerous awards for leadership and scholastic achievement. Active 4-H Club Member, toured Washington, D.C. sponsored by Rural Electric Cooperative. Toured Europe on music scholarship (Trumpet). Winner of numerous awards in public speaking. Outstanding Student Award by the American Legion and John Phillip Sousa Award for outstanding musician. American Legion Boys State (Senator).

Cox has served the state and community in many capacities:

- Board of Directors of Medicalodges, Inc. (1998 to Present)
- Officer and Board of Directors of Peoples Choice Credit Union, Coffeyville, KS (1980 to 2005)
- Leadership Kansas (1992)
- Served on the Governor's Long-Term Care Task Force for the State of Kansas (appointed by Governor Bill Graves).
- Active in local Nazarene Church as past Board Member, Teacher, Leader.
- Member of American Bar Association, American Trial Lawyers Association, American Health Lawyers Association, Kansas Bar Association, Kansas Trial Lawyers Association, and Montgomery County Bar Association.
- Currently serves on the American Health Care Association's Medical Liability Reform Subcommittee (2004 to present) and the Kansas Health Care Association's Tort Reform Subcommittee (Chair) (2004 to present).
- Kansas Health Care Association's Multi-Facility Vice-President. (2005)
- Has served or is presently serving on other groups related to the improvement of the health care community and volunteer groups.
- Frequent lecturer and teacher on health care issues and taught a course for paralegal training at Independence Community College.
- Appointed by the Speaker of the Kansas House, Doug Mays, to serve on the Kansas Health Policy Authority under what was described by Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius as "one of the most significant reorganizations in the history of state government in Kansas." (August 2005)

Garen Cox has been married for thirty years to Waneta who is a teacher for the Tri-County Special Education Cooperative at the Independence High School in Independence, KS. They have two adult children: Branden and Christopher.



#### E.J. 'Ned' Holland, Jr, JD

Vice President of Compensation, Benefits, and Labor Relations at Sprint Corporation

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E.J. 'Ned' Holland, Jr, is a senior executive with substantial legal, business, and civic career. Holland has a strong track record in senior management and leadership roles in legal profession, health care

organizations, and the corporate environment. He was a managing partner and practice group leader of ninety lawyer law firm. Holland has substantial experience in providing policy direction and strategy development for major hospitals and health care organizations. He has managed a variety of functional areas and a multi-million dollar expense and benefits budget as Chief Administrative Officer of a Fortune 500 company. Holland manages multi-billion dollar compensation and benefit plans for a Fortune 100 company.

Holland's professional experience is extensive; including work with Spring Corporation, Overland Park, Kansas as Sprint Corporation is a global communications company integrating long-distance, local and wireless communication services and one of the World's largest carriers of internet traffic. It has \$26 billion in annual revenues, serves more than 20 million customers and has 62,000 employees.

As Assistant Vice President of Corporate Benefits (1/99-5/00), Holland was responsible for the company's major corporate benefits on an enterprise wide basis. This included responsibility for company's retirement and welfare benefits, including purchasing health care for the company's then 85,000 employees and 15,000 retirees nationwide.

As Vice President of Compensation, Benefits, Labor & Employee Relations, Holland is currently responsible for all compensation programs, rank and file as well as executive, and for all major corporate benefits for the enterprise, over \$5B in programs. He is also responsible for corporate labor relations strategy, including dealing with the incumbent international labor unions.

Holland was previously employed by Payless Cashways, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri as Senior Vice President of Administration/Corporate Secretary. Payless Cashways is a \$2.7 billion building materials retail chain with up to 20,000 diversified employees providing goods and services to both retail and professional customers from over 200 locations. There Holland was responsible for all legal affairs, board relations, corporate governance, human resources, employment, employee and labor relations, compensation, benefits, training, human resource development, corporate communications, internal administrative functions, and stand-alone video production facility operated as separate profit center. He began in 1992 as Senior VP Human Resources but gradually acquired the other responsibilities described.

Holland has also worked for Spencer, Fane, Britt & Browne, Kansas City, Missouri as a Managing Partner and Health Care Practice Group Leader. Holland worked as an attorney in private practice with primary expertise in labor and employee relations and health care law as

well as additional experience in zoning and land use planning and litigation on behalf of major regulated public utility.

E.J. Holland graduated from Boston College Law School, Brighton, Massachusetts, with a Jurist Doctorate. He earned his undergraduate degree from Rockhurst College, Kansas City, Missouri, with a Bachelors of Arts in philosophy.

Holland is very involved in professional and civic activities that include:

- Frequently published author and speaker on labor, employment and health care policy issues.
- Member, Board of Directors, National Business Group on Health.
- Chair, National Committee on Evidence Based Benefit Design.
- Member, Board of Directors, Joint Commission Resources.
- Member, Kansas Health Care Data Governing Board.
- Member Conference Board Council on Benefits.
- Past Chairman, Mid America Coalition on Health Care.
- Past member of American Academy and Missouri Society of Hospital Attorneys.
- Past General Counsel to Kansas City Area Hospital Association.
- Past Special Counsel to Missouri Hospital Association.
- Past legal counsel to approximately 40 hospitals and industry associations.
- Past Chairman of the Kansas City, Missouri Tax Increment Financing Commission.
- Past member of the Kansas City, Missouri City Plan Commission.
- Past member and Finance Committee Chair of the Kansas City, Missouri Board of Education.
- Member of the Missouri Governor's Health Systems Partnership task force.
- Past Board Chairman, Truman Medical Center, a 500 bed, multi-facility hospital system.
- Past President, Truman Medical Center Charitable Foundation
- Completed special hospital management internship.
- Past Board Chairman, Kansas City Area Hospital Association.
- Past Board member, Children's Mercy Hospital.

Holland has earned many awards and honors throughout his distinguished career. These awards include:

- Kansas City Metropolitan Medical Society Lay Honor Award.
- Kansas City Gillis Center Spirit Award.
- Kansas City Consensus and Heart of America United Way Volunteer Service Award.
- Missouri Hospital Association Excellence in Governance Award.
- Missouri Department of Social Services Distinguished Service Award.
- Two time White House Fellows national finalist.



#### **Connie Hubbell**

Senior vice president for Community Relations of the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care

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Connie Hubbell is the Senior Vice President, Community Relations, 2003 – Present for Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc. Under the direction of the President and CEO, Hubbell assumes oversight responsibility to establish KFMC as a recognized resource and partner in the Kansas healthcare community. Hubbell leads KFMC's activities and education of Medicare Beneficiaries, and their caregivers, in health care services related to improved health and quality of life. She works successfully with representatives from various communities and organizations with respect to the diverse populations and cultures. Hubbell's position requires that she report directly to the President and C.E.O.

Hubbell's previous professional work experience includes Secretary of Aging, State of Kansas,1999 – 2003. She was also employed by Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) as the Assistant Secretary-Health Care Policy/Commissioner of Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and Developmental Disabilities, 1997 – 1999. Hubbell served as Commissioner of Income Maintenance/Employment Preparation Services, 1995 – 1997.

In 1968, Hubbell received her Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.

An active member in the community, Hubbell has been a member of or involved with many professional and community service organizations:

- Statewide Independent Living Centers of Kansas (1998 2003)
- Cabinet member, Governor Bill Graves' Administration (1999 2003)
- National Association of State Units on Aging Association, Board Member (2002)
- Kansas Legislature's Long Term Care Services Task Force (2000 2003)
- Kansas State Board of Education,
  - o Elected member (1985 1995)
  - o Chairman (1989 1990)
  - o Legislative Chair (1986 1988 & 1991 1993)
- National Association of State Boards of Education (1989 1994)
  - o President (1993 1994)
- Public Policy Monitor (YMCA) of Kansas (1992 1995)
- Kansas Agricultural Rural Leadership (1998 2000)
- Governor's Kansas Workforce Investment Partnership (1995 1998)

- Volunteer Center of Topeka Board of Directors (2003-Present)
- St. Francis Hospital Foundation Board of Directors (2003-Present)
- Topeka/Shawnee County Library Friends Board of Directors (2004-Present)
- Topeka/Shawnee County Library Foundation Board of Directors (1995 2002)
  - o Chair (2000 2001)
- Topeka YMCA Board of Directors (1989 Present)
  - o President (1995)
- Kansas Business Hall of Fame (1990 1998)
- Kansas Alliance for Literacy (1995 1996)
- Kansas Alliance for Adolescent Health (KAHA) (1994 1997)
- Lieutenant Governor Candidate (1994)
- Governor's Mental Health Services Planning Council (1990 1994)
- Governor's School to Work Commission (1994 1995)
- Kansas 2000 Project (1991)
- National Board of Directors, Parents and Teachers (1991 1995)
- Board of Directors, Kansas Business Hall of Fame (1990 1995)
- Midwest Higher Education Compact (1990 1994)
- Junior League of Topeka, Board of Directors (1976 1981)
  - o President (1980 1981)
  - o National Board Service ((1982 1985 & 1992 1994)
- Topeka Blood Bank, Board of Directors (1984 1991)
  - o Vice-President (1985)
- United Way of Topeka, Board of Directors (1984 1991)
- President, Topeka High School Parents Organization (1990)
- Young Women's Christian Association (YMCA) Board of Directors (1984 -1988)
- Leadership Kansas (1984)
- Volunteer Center, Board of Directors (1981 1984) President (1984)

#### Hubbell's many distinguished honors and awards include:

- ABWA Distinguished Woman of the Year, 2003
- Sertoma "Service to Mankind" District and Regional Award, 2003
- Gold Rose Award, Junior League of Topeka
- Special Vocational Award, Kansas Vocational Association
- Certificate of Commendation, Kansas Future Farmers of America
- Proclamation by Governor Mike Hayden for State and National Leadership in State Boards of Education
- Recognition for Contributions to teachers in Kansas: Phi Delta Kappa and Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge Foundation
- President's Award, Kansas Association of Health and Physical Education
- Distinguished Service Award, Kansas Association for School Health
- 1999 Capital Minute Citizen Award, Multimedia Cablevision and Capitol Federal Savings
- 1999 Award for Service to Kansas Families, Kansas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy



Arneatha Martin, BSN, MSN, ARNP

Retired Co-President and CEO, Center for Health and Wellness

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Arneatha Martin has served the health community in many capacities throughout her profession. Having recently retired, Martin leaves behind a distinguished career that includes: Director Department of Education and Research, St. Joseph Medical Center, 1987-1996, Director of Development, Via Christi Health System, 1996-1998, and Chief Executive Officer & Co-President, Center for Health and Wellness, Inc., 1998 – 2005. (retired May 2005).

Arneatha Martin received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 1975 and Masters of Science degree in Nursing in 1980. She received her Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) certification in 1996 from the Kansas State Board of Nursing. Martin is a Lieutenant Colonel in the

United States Army Reserve (Retired). She spent 6 months in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War.

Martin's involvement in the community is extensive. She is involved with or holds office with the following organizations:

- Wichita State University Board of Trustees
- Board of Directors, Sedg. County Board of Health
- Team member, National Governor's Policy Academy of Chronic Disease Prevention & Management.
- Board of Directors, Wichita State University Alumni Assoc.
- Board of Directors, Step Stone
- Board of Directors, American Red Cross
- Board of Directors, Center for Health and Wellness
- Board of Directors, American Lung Association
- Board of Directors, Regional Prevention Center

Martin is also widely involved in professional organizations:

- Wichita State Nursing Alumni Society
- Wichita Black Nurses Association
- Kansas Association of Health Education

- Kansas State Nurses Association
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
- Kansas State Nurses' Association
- Soroptimist International of Wichita
- National Black Nurses' Association
- Wichita Chapter of Links, Inc.
- Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing

Martin's notable career has awarded her many honors. These include:

- Sedgwick County Community Enrichment Award 2004.
- National Black Nurses Administrator of the Year Award 2002.
- The National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian Awards 2002.
- Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader Award 2001.
- Search Committee member for Wichita State University's President and Dean of College of Health Professions.
- Leadership Kansas class of '98.
- Women in NAACP award 1997.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. 1998 Recognition Award.
- Distinguished Nursing Alumni Award 1997.
- Up with people Award, Urban League of Wichita.
- Wichita State University Alumni Achievement Award 1998.
- President, Kansas State Board of Nursing 1996-97.



Vernon A. Mills, MD

Pediatrician

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Dr. Vernon Mills, a pediatrician, graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, KS in 1977 after earning a Bachelors of Science in pharmacy from Howard University in 1974. He went on to complete his internship and residency at the District of

Columbia General Hospital, Washington, DC, 1978 and 1979 respectively. In 1980, Dr. Mills completed a Pediatric Infection Disease Fellowship at the University of Texas at Houston, Houston, TX. He is board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics.

Dr. Mills' professional activities have included being a founding member and first president of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association in 1972 and has held positions of: Alternate Councilor, Councilor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and President of the Kansas Medical Society. He has also held the position of President of the KAW Valley Medical Society. Dr. Mills is an active member of the National Medical Association and the American Medical Association. He has been active on the Board of Directors for Heartland Health, Sunflower Foundation, and KAMMCO.

Dr. Mills and his wife, Cheryl, have four children, two daughters and two sons.



#### Marcia Nielsen, PhD, MPH

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health Policy, Office of External Affairs University of Kansas Medical Center and Assistant Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management

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Dr. Marcia Nielsen received a Ph.D. in Health Policy and Management from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, a Master of Public Health degree from George Washington University, and a Bachelor of Science from Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa. Prior to joining the University of Kansas in 2002, she spent ten years working in Washington, D.C., as a senior legislative assistant for a U.S. Senator and a health care lobbyist. At the University of Kansas Medical Center she serves as both a faculty member in the Department of Health Policy and Management as well as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health Policy and Governmental Affairs. Marci is a Nebraska native, a former US Army Reservist, and a returned Peace Corps volunteer. She currently lives with her husband and twin daughters in Prairie Village Kansas.

Dr. Nielsen's teaching and research interests are in federal and state health policy, the US health care system, and public health. In the School of Medicine, she is co-director of the Social Basis of Medicine course for first year medical students, and has taught several courses in the Masters of Health Services program. Dr. Nielsen has been also been involved in numerous research projects, including a HRSA Supplemental State Planning Grant that explores issues related to the affordability of health insurance in Kansas. She is currently the principal investigator on a

Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) grant, "Expanding MPH Curriculum Development in the areas of Health Policy and Administration."

Dr. Nielsen is the Chairperson of the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board, a 2005 Kansas Health Foundation Fellow, a former member of the Health Care Data Governing Board, a member of the Healthy Kansas 2010 Steering Committee, a Task Force member for the Kansas Public Health Systems Group, and participated in Governor Sebelius' Task Force on Health Care Reform. Dr. Nielsen has worked as a student advisor for the Kansas Medical Student Association on the 2003 "Covering the Uninsured Week" and for the JayDoc Clinic, which provides health care services to the medically underserved. She is a member of the Kansas Public Health Association, the American Public Health Association; a member of advisory task group on health and social justice (a joint initiative of the National Association of County and City Health Officials), America's HealthTogether, and the Center for the Advancement of Health; and an advisory panel member to the Ethics and Professional Policy Committee of the American College of Medical Quality. She also serves on the Heart of America United Way Public Policy committee and a past board member of New Horizons, a non-profit which provides residential and treatment services for mentally ill and disabled adults.



Susan Page, MA

CEO of Pratt Regional Medical Center

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Susan Page has been President and CEO of Pratt Regional Medical Center since 1993.

Susan received her Master's degree in Business Administration from Webster University in St. Louis, MO and her Bachelor's degree in Medical Record Administration from the University of Kansas. She is a Certified Diplomate in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

She has served as President and CEO since 1993. Pratt Regional Medical Center includes a 69 bed acute care hospital, a 51 bed long-term care nursing home, a home health agency, 2 physician specialty clinics, and three outlying rural health clinics.

Page served as Chairman of the Board of the Kansas Hospital Association in 2002 and 2003, and recently completed her term on the Board. She is currently serving on the Region 6 Policy Board of the American Hospital Association.

Page serves on Congressman Moran's Executive Council; serves on the Regents Advisory Council of the American College of Healthcare Executives; is a member of VHA Mid-America Board of Directors; and previously served as president of the Kansas Association of Healthcare Executives, Chair of the Kansas Hospital Service Corporation, and as a member of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry board of Directors.

Locally, Page is past President of the Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce; a founding Board member of Leadership 2000, a member of the Pratt Rotary Club, and Sacred Heart Church.

Susan and her husband Jim have two children, Katie who is 17 and Hannah who is 13.



#### Joe Tilghman

Retired, Midwest Consortium Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), HHS

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Joe Tilghman has served the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in a senior field leadership position in a career spanning nearly the entire period of enactment of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Tilghman retired on January, 2005, after 37 years of distinguished federal service.

As Midwest Consortium Administrator, Tilghman was responsible for federal administration of the Medicare and Medicaid programs in IA, KS, MO, NE, MN, MI, IN, IL, WI, and OH. He was an active member of the CMS Executive Council. Tilghman worked a six month detail to New York City following 9-11 to run the New York City, Boston, and Philadelphia regions. Prior to joining CMS (then the Health Care Financing Administration) in 1978 he worked in Social and Rehabilitative Services and the Bureau of Health Insurance.

A former Army Captain, Tilghman earned his Bachelors of Arts from the University of Kansas in 1967, majoring in philosophy and English. In 1970, he went on to complete a Masters of Science from Troy State University in education. Tilghman has also completed 30 hours of graduate work in Public Health Administration at the University of Missouri at Kansas City, 1972 – 1978.

Joe Tilghman and wife, Jo Anne Hardy, have two adult children: Stephanie and Abigail.